

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 6, 10, 19, and 21-26 have been amended.

Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 2-32 are currently pending in this application.

Claims 2, 25, and 26 are in independent format.

1. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 10, 11, and 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable by U.S. Patent No. 5,558,595 to *Schmidt et al.* is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been cancelled.

Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 10, 11, and 19-24 have been amended as required to depend either directly or indirectly from amended Claim 2, which the Examiner has indicated will be allowable. Accordingly, Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 10, 11, and 19-24 are believed allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the '595 *Schmidt et al.* patent for the same reasons as amended Claim 2.

2. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 10, 11, and 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable by U.S. Patent No. 6,478,705 to *Holmes et al.* is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been cancelled.

Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 10, 11, and 19-24 have been amended as required to depend either directly or indirectly from amended Claim 2, which the Examiner has indicated will be allowable. Accordingly, Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 10, 11, and 19-24 are believed allowable

under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the '705 *Holmes et al.* patent for the same reasons as amended Claim 2.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-13, and 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004-0043856 A1 to *Xiaolan* is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been cancelled.

Claims 3-13 and 19-24 have been amended as required to depend either directly or indirectly from amended Claim 2, which the Examiner has indicated will be allowable. Accordingly, Claims 3-13 and 19-24 are believed allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the '856 *Xiaolan* reference for the same reasons as amended Claim 2.

3. Double Patenting

The Examiner has indicated that Claim 1 is provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, and 6-9 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/451,303. Applicant has hereby cancelled Claim 1, and accordingly, respectfully believes the double-patenting rejection is no longer applicable to the remaining claims of the present application.

4. Claim Objections

The Examiner has stated that Claims 2 and 14-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended Claim 2 to be in independent form, including all of the limitations of parent Claim 1, now cancelled. Accordingly, Claim 2 is now seen as allowable.

Claims 14-18 as originally written depended from Claim 1 by way of Claims 3 and 12. Claims 3 has been amended to depend from amended Claim 2. Accordingly, Claims 14-18 include the limitations thereof, and are now seen as allowable as for the same reasons as amended Claim 2.

5. Allowed Claims

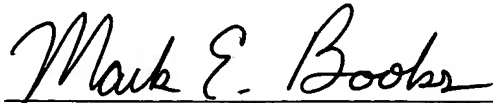
The Examiner's allowance of original Claims 25-32 is respectfully acknowledged

6. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, the further allowance of Claims 2-24 together with previously allowed Claims 25-32 is requested.

If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the next Office Action and feels that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the purpose of arranging such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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